

## Tennessee Pollution Prevention Partnership Success Story



Lane College  
545 Lane Avenue  
Jackson, Tennessee 38301  
731-426-7500  
[www.lanecollege.edu](http://www.lanecollege.edu)



1-800-734-3619  
[www.tp3.org](http://www.tp3.org)

### Lane College Recycling Program

#### The Member

Lane College is a private, liberal arts college located in Jackson, Tennessee with an enrollment of 2003 students. While Lane enjoys the solid advantages accruing from a 126-year tradition of educational progress, the College is more confident in its future than ever before. Students are encouraged to pursue their greatness through a proper balance of intellectual, spiritual, cultural, and diverse experiences. The faculty and staff, under the leadership of the President, have employed a collaborative approach to establishing a revived culture of student-centered, technology-enhanced teaching and learning. This involves viewing students as clients, life-long learners and future leaders, and viewing faculty as life-long-learning facilitators who utilize technology as an integral part of the teaching/learning process. Lane College continues to develop the mature and educated individuals that are needed in an ever-changing society.

#### The Story

On May 29, 2008, Lane College kicked off a campus-wide recycling campaign. Guided by EHS, campus organizations such as student government, fraternities and sororities assisted in collecting and carrying items such as books, magazines, shredded paper, newspapers, office paper and cardboard to drop points on the campus. From the drop points, the paper products were taken to the local recycling center. We also began an official ink jet printer cartridge recycling program. In the past, many offices took spent ink jet cartridges to various office supply chains and exchanged them for office supplies. In addition to continuing to use the exchange program, we are now making the effort to recycle the cartridges in a more structured fashion. The Funding Factory, a non-profit organization, has been added to our list of recycling resources.

Through a collaborative project between the Physical Plant department and the Office of Environmental Health and Safety, fluorescent light bulbs are also recycled at the college. Spent bulbs are collected and housed in temporary collection drums. It is our intent to prevent hazardous chemicals, such as the mercury

found in florescent bulbs, from leaking into the earth's surface, air, or water.

#### The Success

Lane College is taking an active role in the betterment of our environment. We are taking steps to take responsibility for our own trash. Lane College pays on average \$62.57 for each ton of trash produced; but recycling is practically free. We are demonstrating that going green and taking a stand for the environment does not have to come with a hefty price tag. We not only measure the success of this effort by the numerical evidence provided, but also by the knowledge that has been passed throughout the campus about recycling. We are so pleased that our students are socially aware and support the green efforts taking place at Lane College. We believe the real measure of success comes with the knowledge and participation of the campus faculty, students, and staff. Our goal is to maintain the enthusiasm that we have started by continuing to publicize the program throughout the campus and with our business supporters. Recycling is almost effortless! And that is the message we want to spread throughout the campus and surrounding community.

#### The Pollution Prevented

By making a long-term commitment to recycling, Lane College has prevented over 3,000 pounds of paper products from reaching the landfills. With our commitment to following all environmental laws and ordinances, Lane College has recycled 526 fluorescent light bulbs. With the fluorescent recycling program fully operational, 100% of the fluorescents used at the college are recycled. We have recycled 50 cartridges and exchanged many more! Lane College is determined to maintain an effort to recycle, and to have a part in helping to sustain the environment for future generations.

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